



Global environmental health and sustainable development: The role at Rio+20

Author(s): Furie GL, Balbus J
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Abstract:

The Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development represents a crucial opportunity to place environmental health at the forefront of the sustainable development agenda. Billions of people living in low- and middle-income countries continue to be afflicted by preventable diseases due to modifiable environmental exposures, causing needless suffering and perpetuating a cycle of poverty. Current processes of economic development, while alleviating many social and health problems, are increasingly linked to environmental health threats, ranging from air pollution and physical inactivity to global climate change. Sustainable development practices attempt to reduce environmental impacts and should, in theory, reduce adverse environmental health consequences compared to traditional development. Yet these efforts could also result in unintended harm and impaired economic development if the new "Green Economy" is not carefully assessed for adverse environmental and occupational health impacts. The environmental health community has an essential role to play in underscoring these relationships as international leaders gather to craft sustainable development policies.

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Resource Description

Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Food/Water Quality, Indoor Environment

Food/Water Quality: Pathogen

Geographic Feature: ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location: ☒

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation): ☒

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cancer, Diabetes/Obesity, Infectious Disease, Injury, Respiratory Effect

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Other Diarrheal Disease

Vectorborne Disease: Mosquito-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Malaria

Respiratory Effect: Other Respiratory Effect

Respiratory Condition (other) : Lower Respiratory Infection

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Mitigation

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified